

(NASA-CR-192273) SO₂ ON VENUS: A
FINAL CROSS-CALIBRATION WITH
PIONEER VENUS Final Report
(Southwest Research Inst.) 18 p

N93-23096

Unclass

G3/91 0148116

A final report for

SO₂ ON VENUS: A FINAL CROSS-CALIBRATION WITH PIONEER VENUS

NASA Grant No.: NAG5-1913

SwRI Project No.: 15-4914

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March 1, 1993



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In our previous report, we noted that we had successfully completed all of IUE observations which were proposed, and that we have reported our initial results at the 1992 meeting of the AAS Division of Planetary Sciences. In the present reporting period, Dr. Na and Esposito have met with Pioneer Venus PI, Dr. Ian Stewart to collaborate on the recalibration of the UV spectrometer of Pioneer Venus. The associated data reduction and analysis activities have been completed.

The sensitivity of the UV spectrometer had been steadily declining since orbit insertion of Pioneer Venus in 1978 due to aging of the detector tubes. The sensitivity decline is a strong function of wavelength and the rate of decline is also a function of time. Measures were taken to reduce the light dose received by the instrument to slow down the sensitivity decline. The stellar calibration using the bright UV star Hadar in 1990 indicate that the sensitivity decline may have slowed down more than have been previously estimated.

The derived amount of SO_2 from Pioneer Venus depends on the accuracy of the absolute sensitivity of the UV spectrometer. The previous cross calibration between IUE and Pioneer Venus led to use of same solar flux data for reducing and modelling data from both IUE and Pioneer Venus. The comparison between the 1991 IUE results and the Pioneer Venus stellar calibration carried out in 1990 will allow a more accurate determination of sensitivity decline of PV UV spectrometer. The result of this comparison will be crucial in determining the trend of SO_2 in the Venus atmosphere.

We reported initial results of IUE observations and the comparison between simultaneous groundbased measurements made on the McDonald Observatory 2.7m telescope at the 1992 meeting of the AAS Division of Planetary Sciences (Barker, Stern, and Na 1992; see attached). We will be reporting the results with more recent IUE observations at the 24th annual Lunar and Planetary Science conference. The important finding we have reached is that the 1991 IUE observations indicate that the long-term decline in Venus SO_2 abundance has either halted or reversed. corroborate this result. We are now preparing a paper describing these IUE results and the comparison with other observations for publication in Icarus. With more IUE observation made in early 1993, we are also starting a project to compare the 1991 IUE results to the latest IUE observations and the Pioneer Venus UV spectra as well as the ground-based measurements made on the same dates.

References

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- Na, C.Y., E. S. Barker, S. A. Stern, and L. W. Esposito, 1993. SO₂ on Venus: IUE, HST, and Ground-based Measurements, and the Active Volcanism Connection, *Lunar and Planetary Science XXIV*, in press
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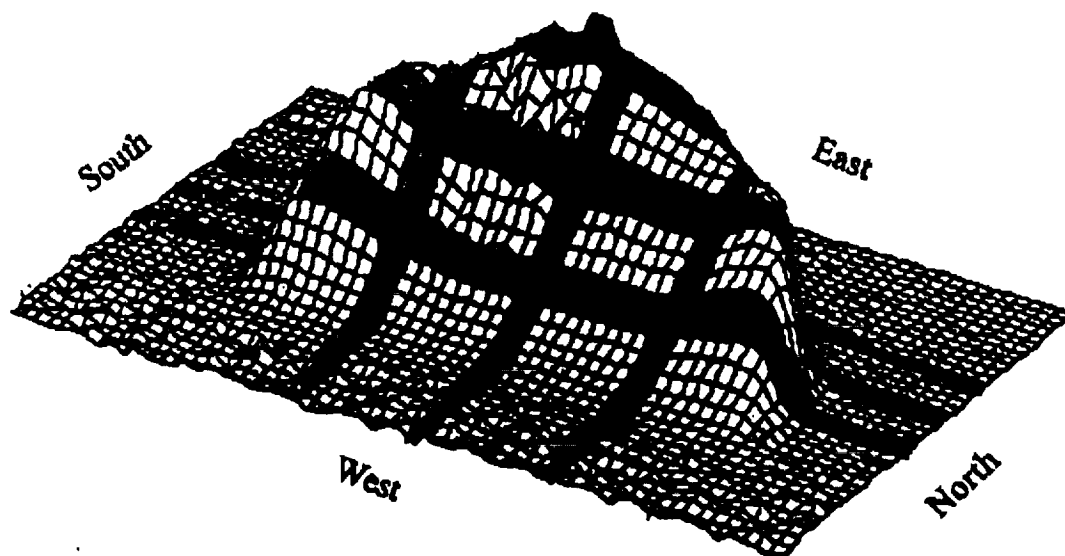
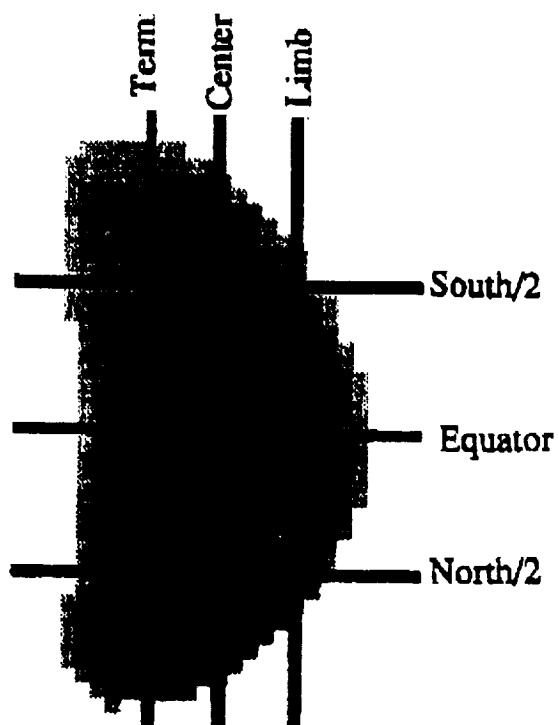
OBSERVATIONS

When Venus was at elongation in early November 1991 we obtained ground-based, spatially resolved spectra and images of Venus with Large Cassegrain Spectrograph and a TI 800x800 CCD detector on the 2.7 m telescope at McDonald Observatory. Spectra and images were obtained on November 1, 2, and 3, but only those obtained on November 2nd are presented here. The spectral coverage was from the effective atmospheric cutoff at 3050Å to 3700Å at an effective resolution of about 3Å. The images were taken in two interference filters, one in the SO₂ absorption at 3150(±100)Å and one in the continuum at 3430(±30)Å. The spectra and images were taken within a few minutes of each other and under excellent seeing conditions (~1 arcsecond). The exposures were less than 1 second for both the images and spectra which effectively canceled any image motion. Spectral observations of a solar analog were obtained at similar airmasses to the Venus spectra.

On the same days in November 1991, we obtained IUE spectra with the LWP camera and spectrograph. Seven IUE images were obtained as part of a long term effort to monitor the SO₂ abundance with IUE. IUE observations span 1979 to 1991 with future observations scheduled in early 1993. We report on two IUE spectra in this paper. A 1 minute exposure (LWP 21613) on November 2nd and a 3 minute exposure (LWP 21622) on November 3rd.

The six slit positions (1 arcsec) for the ground-based data are illustrated in Fig. 1. Also shown in Figure 1 is the IUE 3 arcsecond, circular aperture. The ground-based guiding errors were 1 arcsecond or less. Whereas, the IUE drifted considerably during the exposures resulting in at least 5 arcsec smearing of the 3 arcsecond aperture for the shorter exposures on the disk of Venus. The longer exposures had proportionally greater smearing. Consequently, the IUE spectra

Figure 1: Slit Positions on the Disk of Venus (single aperture is IUE)



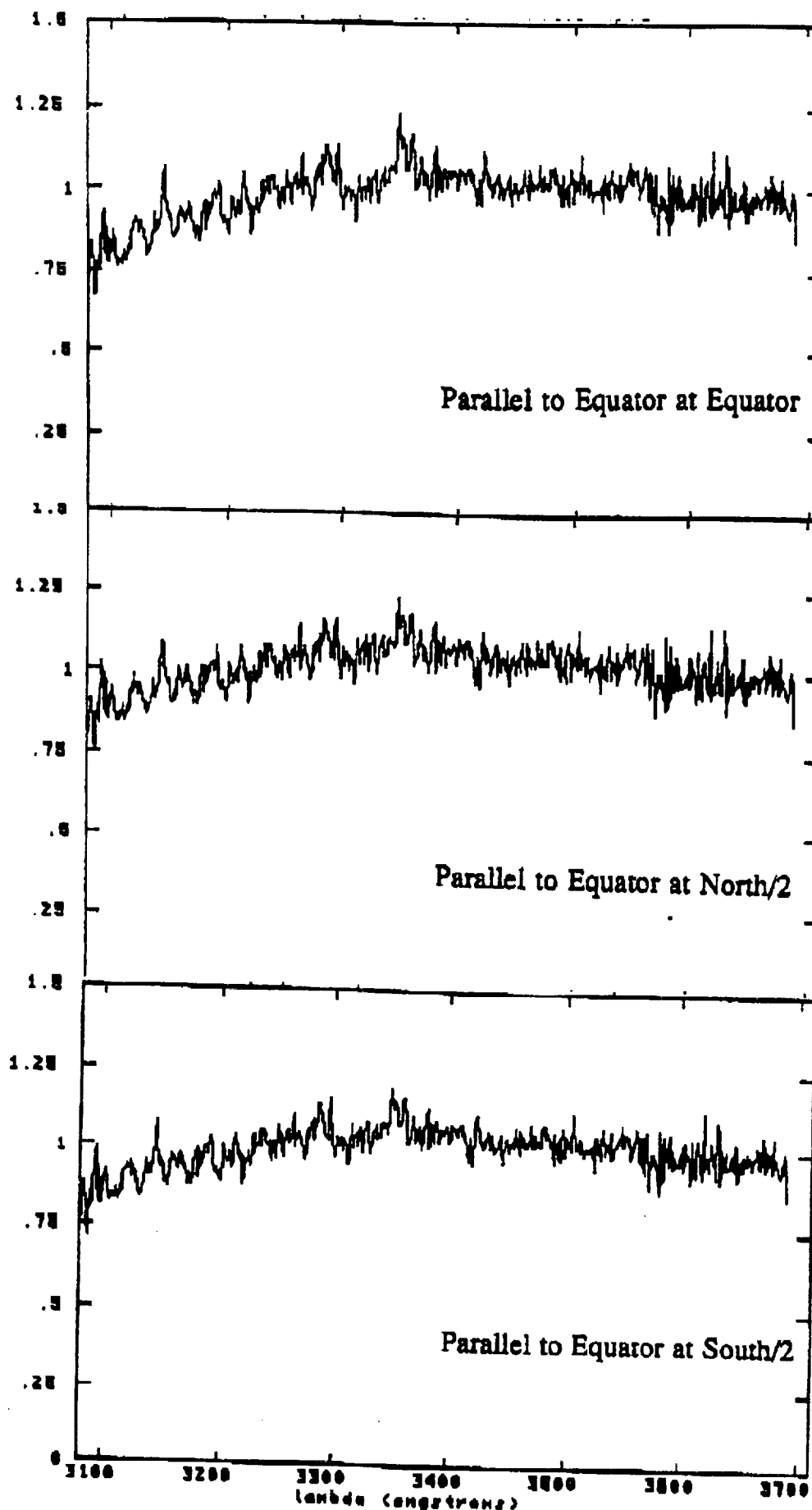


Figure 2a-c: Venus reflectance spectra at the slit positions shown in Fig. 1

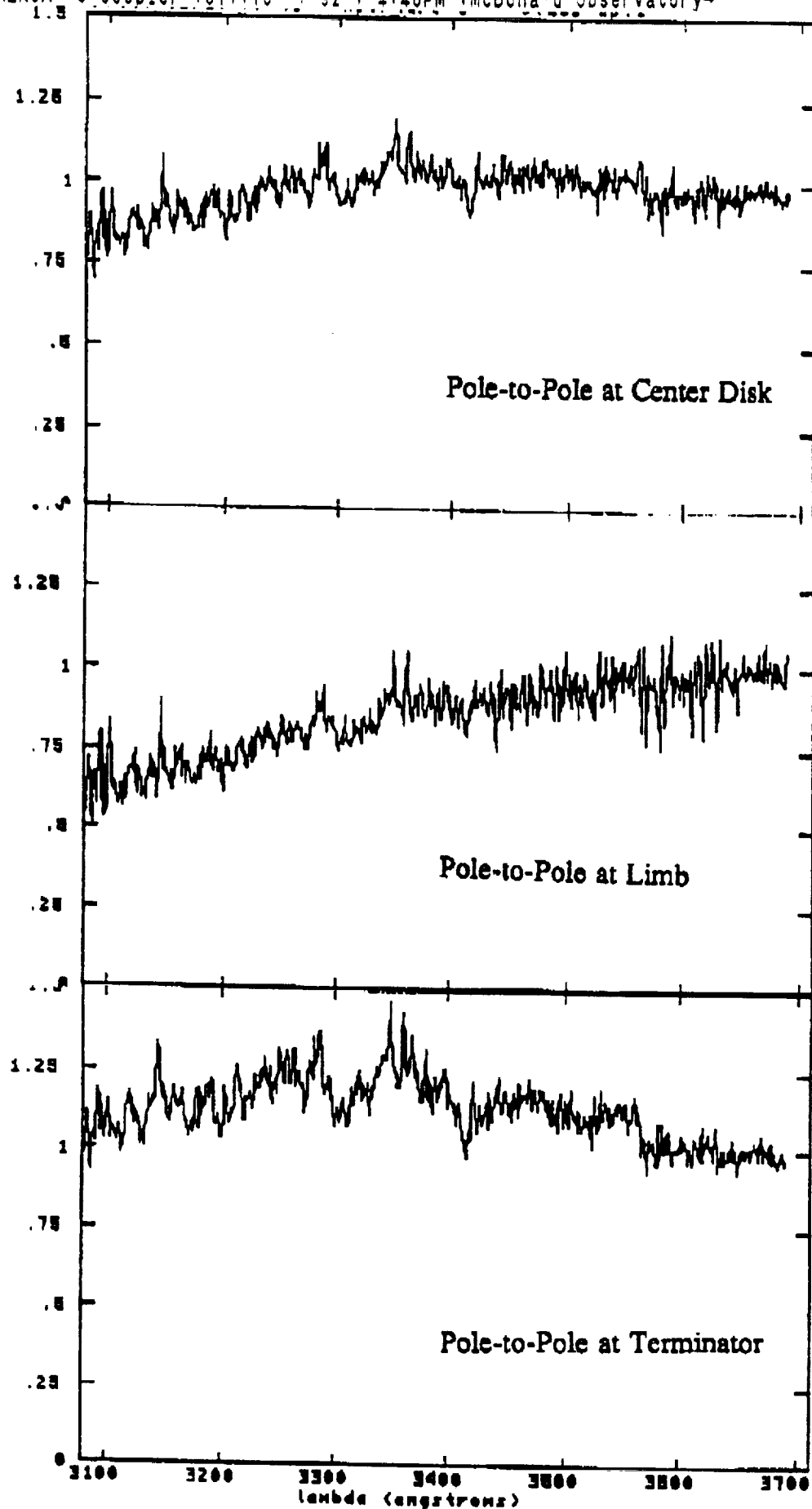


Figure 2d-g: Venus reflectance spectra at the slit positions shown in Fig. 1

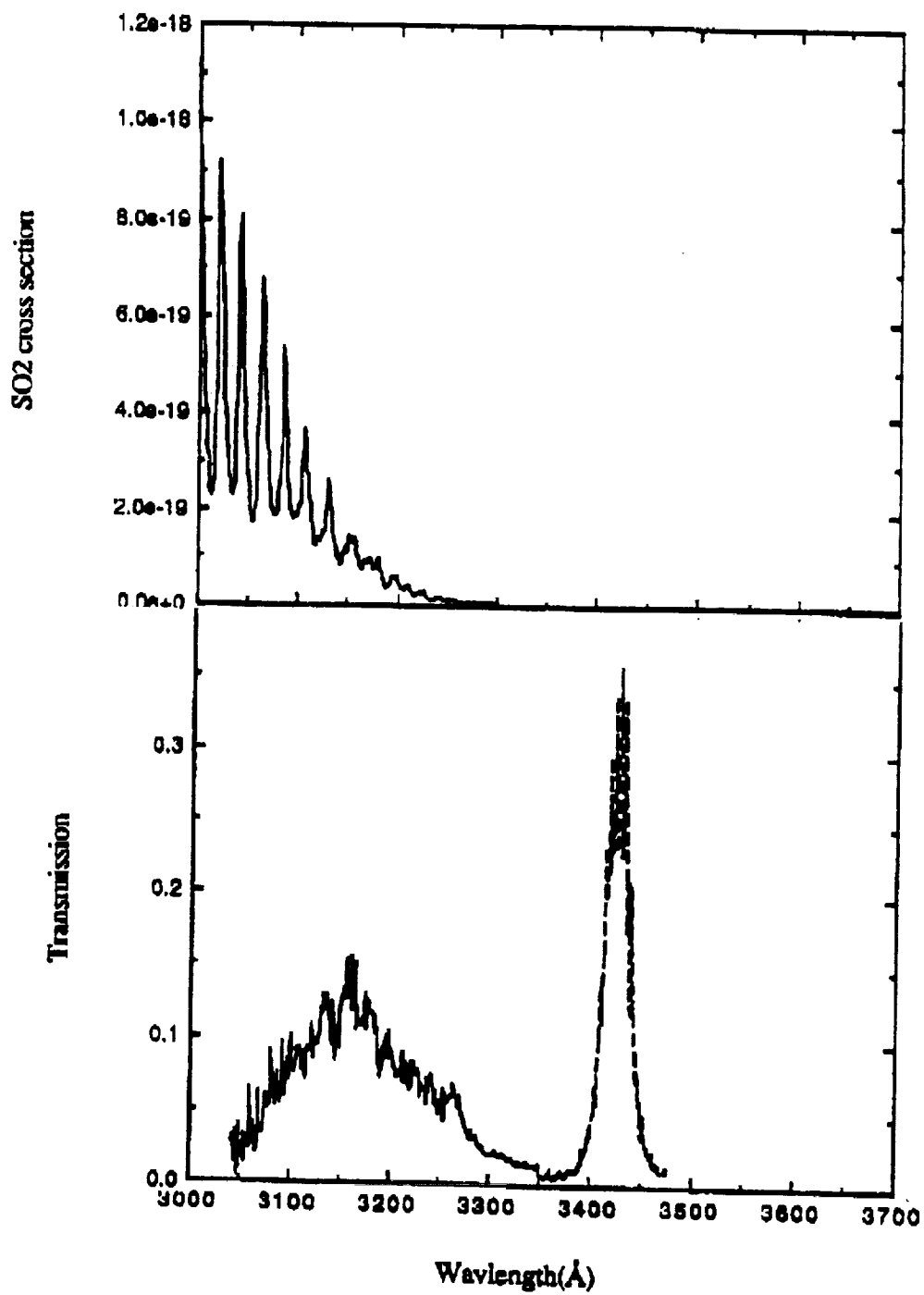


Figure 3: Transmission curves for the interference filters and the SO₂ cross section between 3050 and 3700 Å.

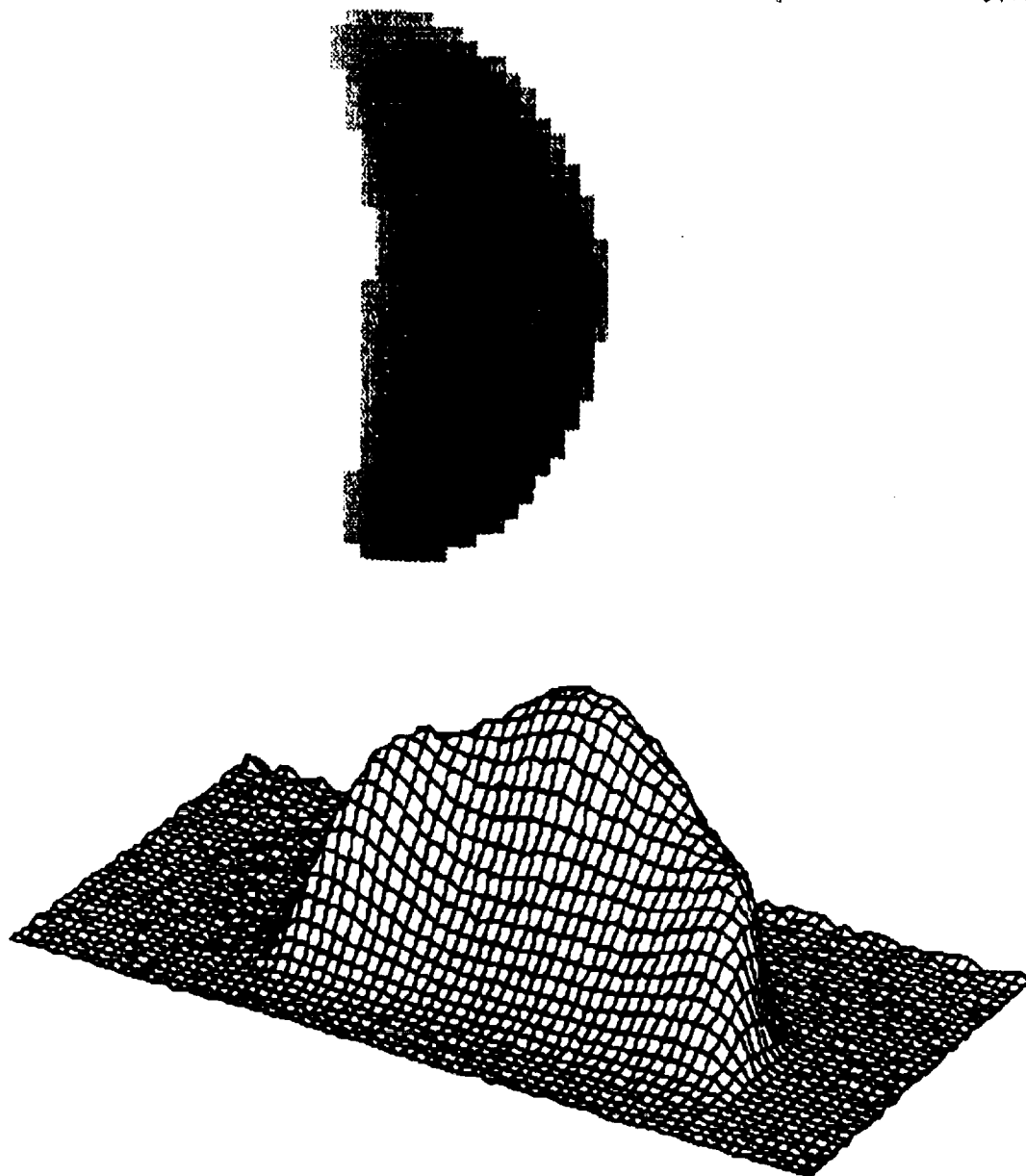


Figure 4b: Grayscale and surface intensity image at 3427Å.

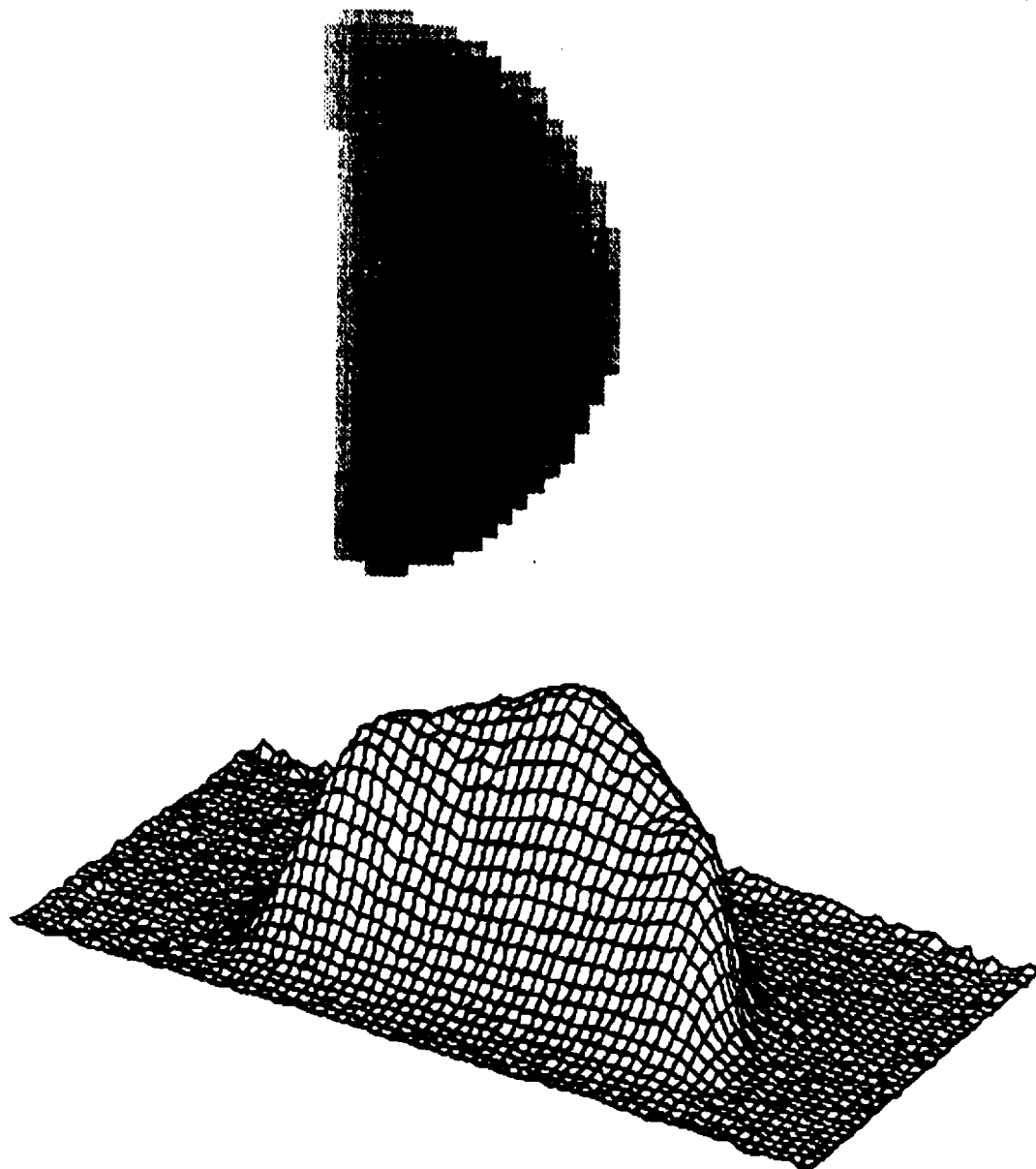


Figure 4a: Grayscale and surface intensity image at 3150Å.

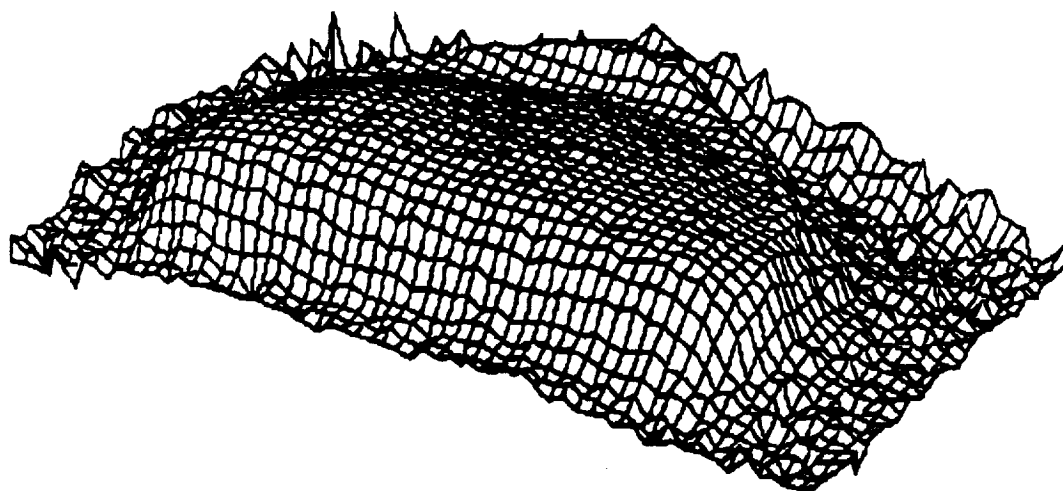


Figure 4c: Grayscale and surface intensity of ratio image (3150Å/ 3427Å)

DATA REDUCTION

The CCD spectra were reduced to ratio spectra using standard IRAF reduction packages. The Venus spectra and the solar analog spectrum were corrected for the difference in airmass using standard extinction coefficients. Then the solar analog spectrum was cross-correlated with each Venus spectrum to produce a shifted solar spectrum to match the solar spectrum reflected by Venus. This shifting technique produced smoother ratio spectra resulting in the relative reflectance spectra shown in Figs. 2a-g. All the Venus reflectance spectra are quite similar in shape, except for the terminator and limb spectra. When these two spectra are averaged, the result is almost identical to the rest. The difference between the terminator and limb spectra will not be addressed in this presentation. All of the spectra in Figs. 2a-g were averaged to produce a disk average spectrum (Fig 5) for comparison to the IUE spectra which effectively sampled the entire disk due to the larger aperture and guiding errors.

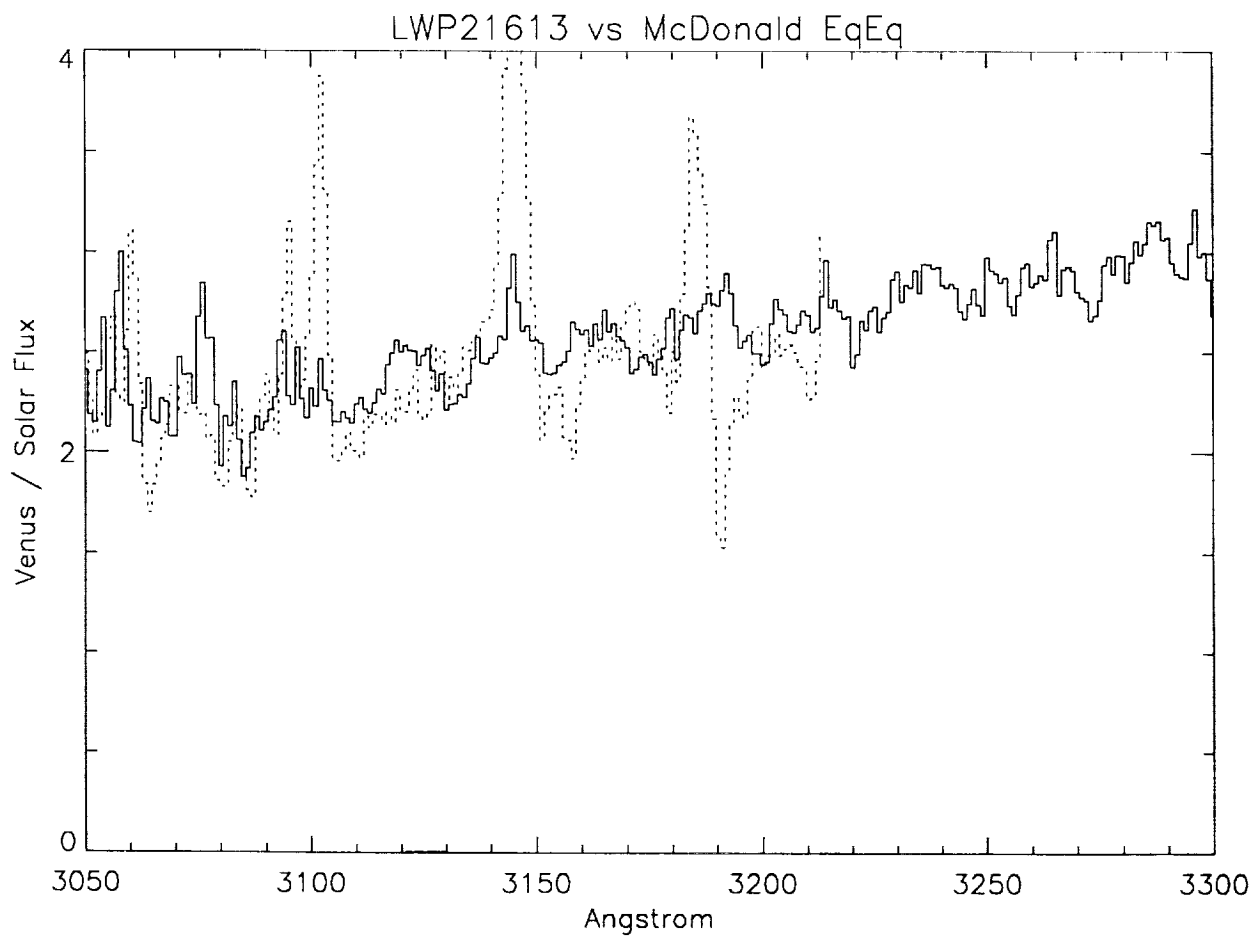
The IUE spectra were reduced to fluxes with standard IUE packages. The short wavelength data are presented in I/F reflectance units. Long wavelength spectra have had the reflected solar spectrum removed by dividing by a SUSIM (Van Hoosier, et.al.1988, *Astrophys. J. Let* 27,163) solar spectrum smoothed to IUE resolution. The IUE spectra for November 2nd and 3rd are presented in Figs 6 and 7.

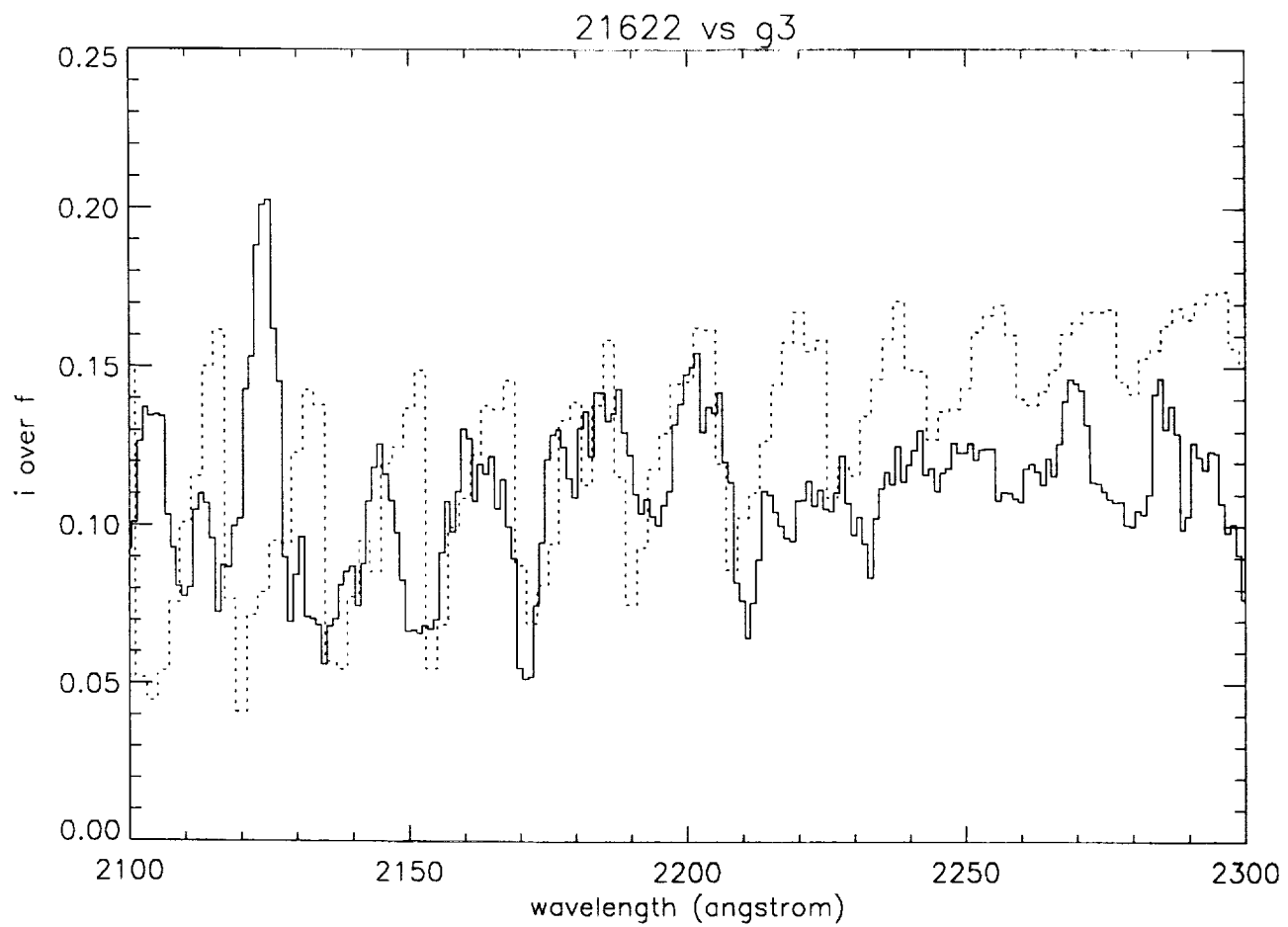
The transmission curves for the two interference filters are presented in Fig. 3 along with the SO₂ cross section. The broader 3150Å filter samples the SO₂ absorbing region of the Venus spectrum. Conversely, the narrower 3430Å filter samples the continuum region. The interference filter images were flat fielded and the sky background was removed. Three sets of images ratios were obtained, but only one set is presented in Figs. 4a-c, as the other sets showed the same feature morphology. Both of the interference filter images show the classical "Y" feature as shown in surface intensity plots in Fig. 4a, and 4b. The corresponding ratio image of the two filters is basically flat, with only a trace of the "Y" feature visible at the 2% level in the ratio image (Fig.4c). From the lack of major structure in the ratio image we can conclude that the absorber causing the "Y" feature is not SO₂ gas.

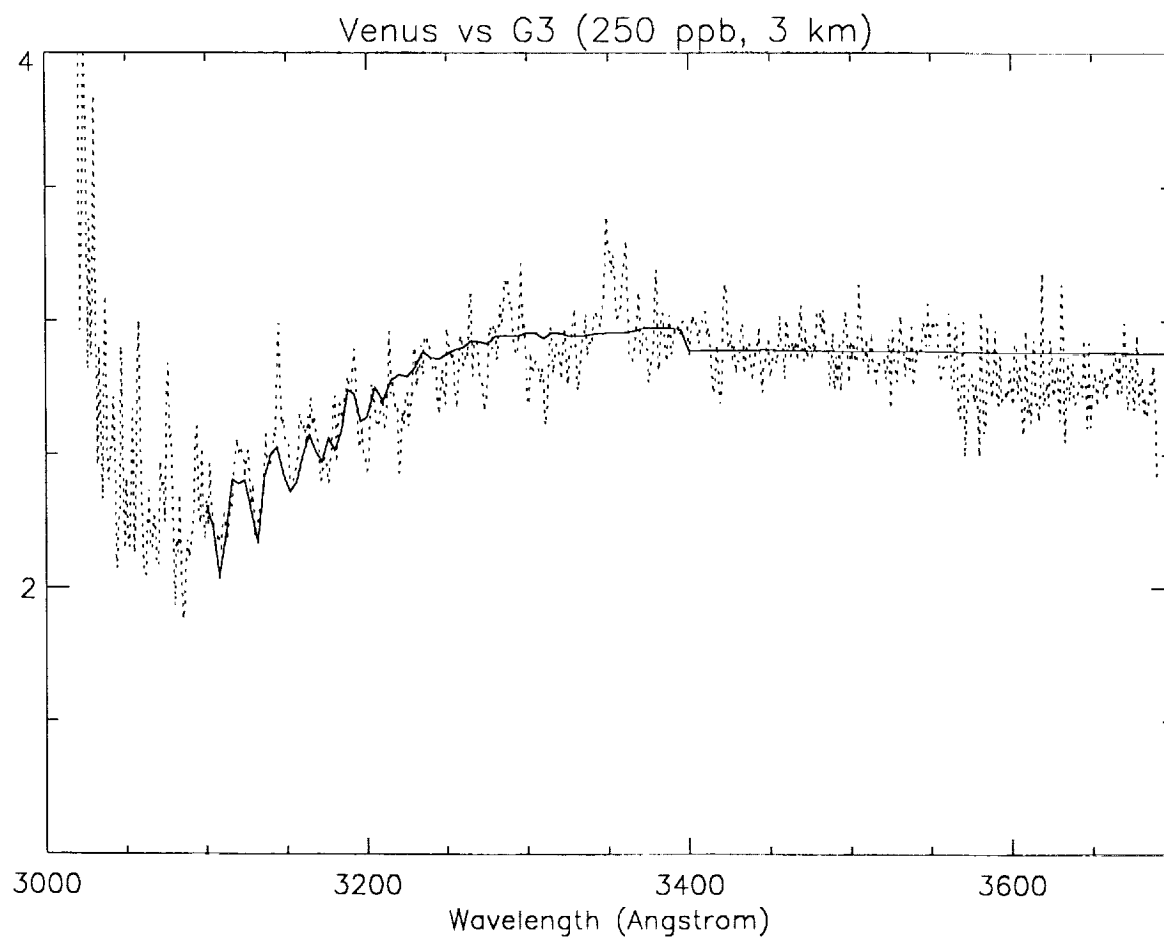
The model atmosphere used in this analysis is similar to the one used in the analysis of the Pioneer Venus observations (Esposito *et al.* 1979, 1988) and the previous IUE observations (Na *et al.* 1990). In this model, sulfuric acid aerosols with a radius of about 1 μm are mixed uniformly with Rayleigh scattering gases throughout the cloud layer. There are two wavelength-independent absorbers. First, the aerosols are assumed to have a single scattering albedo of 0.98 (Kawabata and Hansen 1975), and second a pure absorbing layer with an optical depth of 0.2 is added at an altitude of 75 mbar. The variable parameters in this model are the mixing ratios of SO_2 at the cloud top (40 mbar level), and the scale height of SO_2 at the same altitude. Model spectra were calculated using a radiative transfer code utilizing the Markov chain method (Esposito and House 1978, Esposito 1979). Each model calculation takes into account the multiple scattering and the vertical inhomogeneity of the atmosphere.

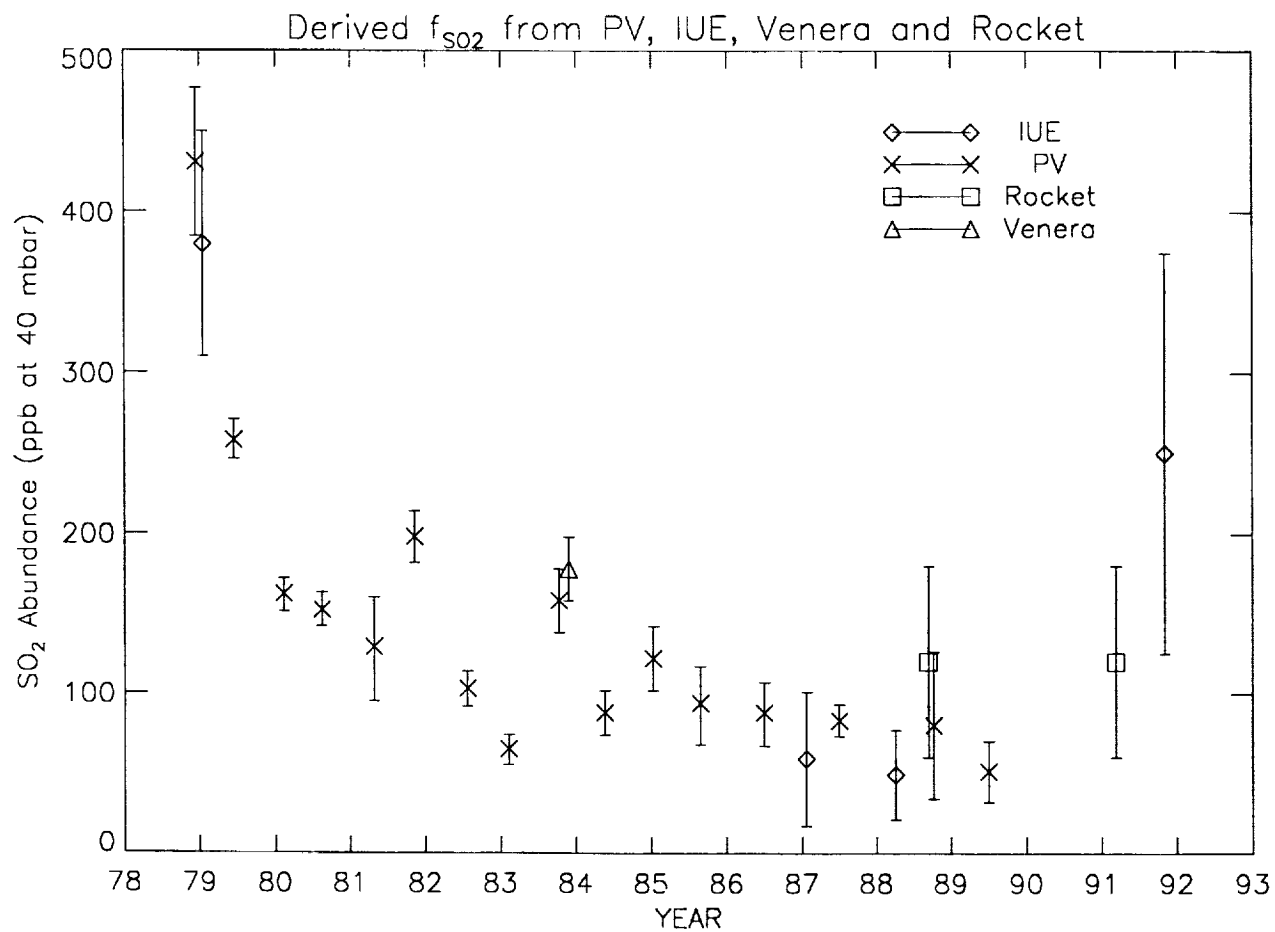
Models used in the Analysis of ground based data are list below.

| Model name | Mixing ratio | Scale height |
|------------|--------------|--------------|
| E3 | 100 ppb | 3 km |
| E4 | 100 ppb | 4 km |
| G3 | 250 ppb | 3 km |
| G5 | 250 ppb | 5 km |
| H3 | 500 ppb | 3 km |
| K3 | 1000 ppb | 3 km |









SUMMARY

- An SO₂ abundance of 250 ppb at 40 mb fits both the IUE and ground-based reflectance spectra.
- Ratio images show that the absorber causing the "Y" feature is not SO₂ gas.
- The long term decline in the SO₂ abundance between 1979 and 1989 has stopped and may be increasing, based on the 1991 measurement made by UV sounding rocket, ground-based and IUE spectra.

FUTURE WORK

- Analyze the 1991 IUE and ground-based data from adjacent days, but the data is of poorer quality.
- Observe Venus with IUE and ground-based techniques in early 1993 to determine, if the SO₂ abundance increase has continued.
- Analyze the available 1991 Pioneer Venus data.